ADDRESS

they recall the Lincoln... with ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S VIEWS ON AMERICANISM

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By: Abraham Lincoln

Illinois Central Magazine: February, 1923, pp. 12-13
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ILLINOIS CENTRAL MAGAZINE

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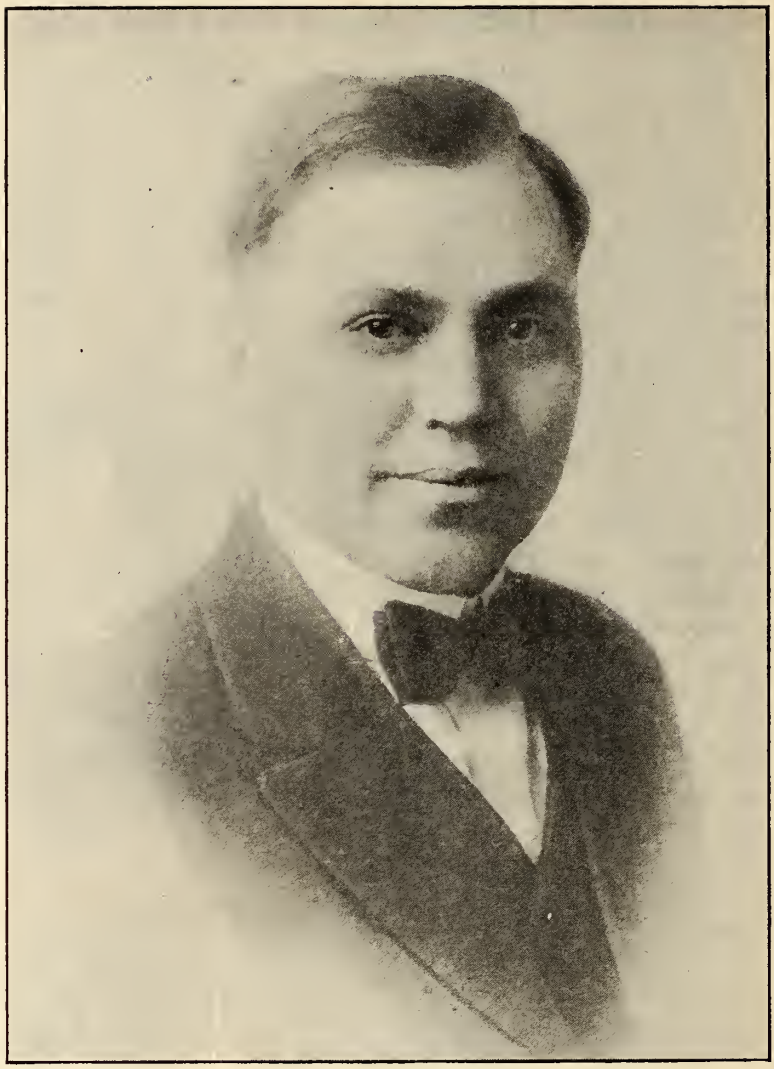

E. L. Crugar

Mr. Crugar, recently appointed engineer of construction, entered railway service in 1900 with the Chicago & Alton Railroad as chainman on relocation work. He was subsequently rodman and instrumentman at various places until 1902. From 1902 to 1906 he was with the Louisville & Nashville Railroad on location and construction of the Knoxville, LaFollette & Jellico Railroad as office assistant, resident engineer on construction and assistant engineer of the Knoxville division. From 1906 to 1914 he was with the Chicago & Alton as office assistant, assistant engineer on construction work, real estate engineer and assistant chief engineer. He entered the service of the Illinois Central System in 1914 as assistant engineer in the construction department and was appointed district engineer of the Southern Lines in December, 1916. He was appointed engineer of construction January 1, 1923.

VOLUME ELEVEN NUMBER EIGHT

ILLINOIS CENTRAL MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY NINETEEN TWENTY-THREE

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GEORGE M. CROWSON, *Editor.* CHARLES E. KANE, *Assistant Editor.*

They Recall the Lincoln of Illinois Days

Vaspasian Warner and George D. Chafee, Local Attorneys for Our Railroad, Relate Experiences in His Life

AT Clinton, Ill., there is still living a man who knew Abraham Lincoln in the flesh, who can recall intimate pictures of the great American in the days when Mr. Lincoln was an obscure, circuit-riding, country lawyer, who in memory hears again the very tones of Mr. Lincoln's voice—stilled now for upward of three-score years by the bullet of an assassin. Colonel Vespasian Warner, now nearly eighty-one years of age, himself a member of the distinguished profession of the law, is the man.

"My earliest recollection of Mr. Lincoln," Colonel Warner said to a representative of the *Illinois Central Magazine*, "was when I was a boy about 15 or 16 years old. My parents lived about a block south of the courthouse square here in Clinton, and a block east of our home stood what was called Bennett's Tavern, a popular stopping place for lawyers and others who came to attend sessions of circuit court.

"I remember one day seeing a tall, ungainly man in a frock coat and linen pants, wearing a stovepipe hat, walking between two immaculately attired lawyers. Mr. Lincoln's coat sleeves appeared too short and his pants legs didn't quite reach his shoe tops; his whole appearance was awkward and uncouth; but his companions seemed eagerly attentive to whatever it was he was saying. I thought it an odd thing that gentlemen of such elegance should be interested in such a person.

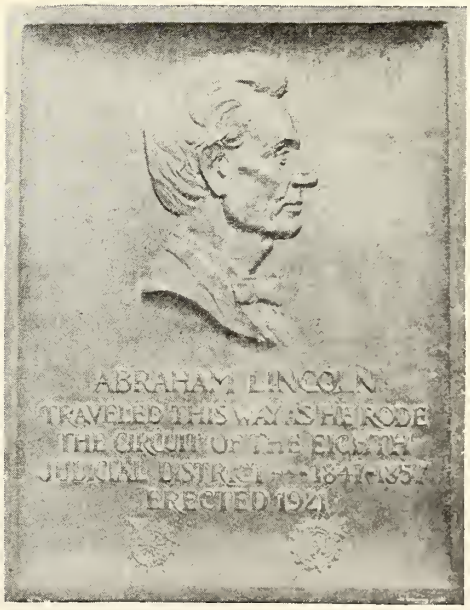
Lincoln's Friends at Clinton

"Judge David Davis was the circuit judge in those days. He held court at Clinton once or twice a year. Judge Davis afterward had a distinguished career as an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court and as United States senator from Illinois. The state's attorney was a man named Ward H. Lamon. The latter was over fond of intoxicating liquor. On one occasion when, boylike, I was loitering at the tavern listening to the talk, Judge Davis, Mr. Lincoln and Prosecutor Lamon were sitting talking in the cool of the evening. Lamon presently suggested that he get some whisky and they repair to a room where they could talk in greater comfort. Judge Davis objected.

"'You know you got drunk last week, Ward,' he said, 'and I had to adjourn court until you got sobered up.'

"Lamon protested that this time he would remain within the bounds of decency and moderation. But the judge was obdurate.

"Mr. Lincoln interposed finally. 'Your honor,' he remarked in his droll way, 'I



Tablet at Shelbyville courthouse

move you that Mr. Lamon be granted one more trial."

"Judge Davis laughingly consented, and the thirsty man proceeded to obtain a pitcher full of corn whisky. The three then took their way to an inner room of the tavern.

A Club Safer Than a Fist

"Mr. Lincoln did not drink, although it was almost the universal custom among men in public life of that day. There is an amusing story about Ward Lamon in later years. After Mr. Lincoln became President, he appointed Lamon marshal of the District of Columbia. A certain individual of more or less dangerous reputation made threats against the marshal's life. One day the two met on Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, and the threatener made a move toward his hip pocket. Lamon struck him a terrific blow under the jaw and actually broke the fellow's neck, killing him instantly.

"In a panic, he sought the President, told him the circumstances and begged for protection. Mr. Lincoln looked grave. 'Well, Ward,' he said at last, 'I'll stand by you—but hereafter, when you have occasion to hit a man, don't use your fist. Get a club.' "

Colonel Vespasian Warner

Colonel Warner relates an incident when Stephen A. Douglas spoke in Clinton at a Democratic rally. Someone wrote to Mr. Lincoln at Springfield and suggested that he ought to attend the meeting. He did so, but arrived late and came up on the stand behind the fiery Douglas, who did not know of his presence. The "Little Giant" handled Mr. Lincoln without gloves during the course of his speech. At the close, there were loud cries of "Lincoln! Lincoln! Speech! Speech."

Mr. Lincoln stood up and said tactfully that it was Mr. Douglas' meeting and he had no moral right to interfere, but that he would be glad to make a few remarks later, over at the courthouse. Afterward these two powerful figures campaigned together, denouncing each other's policies and opinions without reservation, but in their private relations they remained faithful friends until Douglas died soon after Lincoln became President.

There was a man named Robert Lewis in Clinton who discovered a deed to some land in the Missouri Ozarks among his father's papers after the latter's death. Lewis decided to locate on his Ozark farm and accordingly went thither. The story goes that he found a log cabin on the property occupied by an old man, some dogs and a squirrel rifle.

A Good Proof of Title

"Who owns this place?" Lewis asked.

"I do," said the squatter.

Lewis produced his deed and suggested that there might be a legal question involved. Whereupon the other took down his rifle from its pegs and remarked: "Well, h'ars my title—now, you git."

Lewis returned to Clinton saying that he bowed to the squatter's proof of title.

After the Civil War, some men from DeWitt County, Illinois, bought a quantity of cotton at Memphis, and while the civil

authorities consented to its being shipped north, the military rules would not permit its shipment. Lawrence Weldon of Clinton, a friend of Mr. Lincoln, was sent to Washington to obtain a presidential order rescinding the rule.

The President listened to Weldon's plea. "Do you remember Bob Lewis' Ozark land?" he asked. "Well, Bob had the civil rights, but the militia had proof of title. This seems to be a similar case." So the cotton never came North.

Lawrence Weldon's son, Lincoln Weldon, was born when Mr. Lincoln was an unknown and struggling lawyer. Weldon named the boy after the man who was destined to undying fame. Colonel Warner thinks that, probably, Lincoln Weldon was the first child to be honored by the name of the martyred President.

When Lincoln and McClellan Met

Mr. Lincoln was at one time attorney for the Illinois Central in several counties. Colonel Warner tells the following story:

"There was a case in Judge Davis' court at Clinton wherein the railroad was being sued on some count or other. When the case was called, Mr. Lincoln rose and asked for a continuance for one day. He said: 'One of our witnesses is the chief engineer of the company. His name is George B. McClellan. He can't be here until tomorrow. Further deponent saith not.'

"Judge Davis granted the continuance. The following day there met for the first time those two men—one of whom was to be President of the United States and the other commander-in-chief of the Army of the Potomac, all in the short space of half a dozen years."

Lincoln's droll humor was well known in the '50's. There is a story of a certain country doctor who had won distinction in his profession. His name was Winn. When anybody got sick, if Doctor Winn couldn't save him, he was beyond help, according to popular opinion.

Sick Until Judgment Was Paid

One Tom Hutchin got into a legal controversy with the doctor and sued him. Judgment was rendered for $150 in Hutchin's favor—a tremendous sum, the price of a farm, in those days. A feud resulted. Presently, however, Hutchin fell ill. The community was amazed to hear that Doctor Winn had been called. One day Mr. Lincoln was driving with a companion in his buggy along the country road. Doctor Winn, astride his nag with pills and panaceas in saddle bags behind him, hove in sight. Mr. Lincoln stopped his equipage and hailed the physician.

"I hear our friend Tom Hutchin is down sick," he said.

"Yes, he's sick," the doctor assented.

"Who is attending him?" Lincoln asked with elaborate innocence.

"I am," returned the other curtly.

"Ah," murmured Lincoln. "Is he likely to recover, you think?"

"I think so," said Doctor Winn.

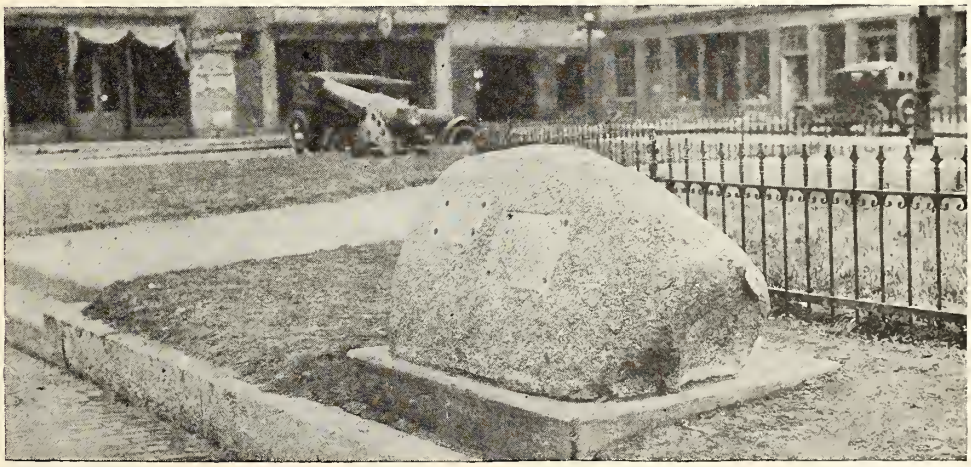
"When—do you reckon?"

Doctor Winn eyed his questioner shrewdly. "Why," he said, "I reckon he'll recover about the time that judgment is paid off."

Tradition has it that Lincoln's roar of appreciation could have been heard half a mile away.

Colonel Warner a Native of Illinois

Colonel Warner was born April 23, 1842, in Farmer City, Illinois. From the age of 3 months, he has spent practically all of



Boulder marking site of Lincoln-Thornton debate, Shelbyville, Ill.

his 80-odd years of life in Clinton. He enlisted in the Union army in 1861 when he was 19, serving until the end of the war. He was promoted to lieutenant and later commissioned captain by President Lincoln. He served under Grant in the Fort Donelson campaign and was wounded at Shiloh and other major engagements. One of his treasured possessions is a dispatch received by him at Oxford, Miss., where he was provost-marshal for a time, written in a quaint running scrawl and signed "U. S. Grant, Major General."

Colonel Warner says that on one occasion General Grant detailed a troop from Fort Donelson to scout into Confederate territory as far as Clarksville, Tenn. He thinks that President Markham of the Illinois Central System must have been there at the time, probably about a year old. He confesses that he didn't see him nor very many other Southern gentlemen on that visit, as nobody seemed desirous of entertaining Yankee company.

Later, Colonel Warner was brevetted major by President Lincoln and still later appointed judge advocate general of Illinois with the rank of colonel. He served as a member of the national House of Representatives for ten years, from 1895 to 1905. He was appointed commissioner of pensions by President Roosevelt, serving in that capacity for four years and an additional nine months under President Taft, resigning to return to his law practice at Clinton.

Graduated From Harvard in 1868

Colonel Warner served in Indian campaigns on the western plains after the Civil War, under General Grenville Dodge. He resigned from the army in the fall of 1866 and entered Harvard University law school, from which he was graduated in 1868. He began the practice of law at Clinton as a partner of Clifton H. Moore, now deceased. Colonel Warner has been local attorney at Clinton for the Illinois Central Railroad for many years.

Shelbyville, the county seat of Shelby County, Illinois, is another place which is full of living memories of Lincoln when he rode the circuits as an itinerant lawyer. The old inn still stands on the east side of the courthouse in Shelbyville where Mr. Lincoln stopped when he came to the town during court sessions twice a year. A bronze tablet at the southwest corner of the county edifice records Mr. Lincoln's pilgrimages to that spot on his rounds. There will be unveiled, at Shelbyville, this coming 12th day of February, a monument in the form of a massive granite boulder, marking the exact place where Mr. Lincoln and Anthony Thornton met on June 15, 1856, in a joint debate upon the subject of slavery in the Louisiana Territory.

The stone which will serve as an enduring reminder of that day was selected by George D. Chafee of Shelbyville, who has lived there since April, 1861, and has an intimate knowledge of the early history of the county in connection with the great Emancipator. Mr. Chafee tells many interesting stories of Lincoln's droll wit which always so astutely covered any point at issue more succinctly than polished phrases or rounded paragraphs could have done.

Some Logic That Lincoln Claimed

On one occasion when the profundities of logic were under discussion, Mr. Lincoln is credited with having said: "I make no claims to proficiency in the fine shades of logic, but I can readily distinguish the difference between a chestnut horse and a horse chestnut."

There are two original letters written by Mr. Lincoln to Dr. J. B. Herrick, whose son, J. T. Herrick, is a prominent banker at Shelbyville and who now owns the letters. They relate to certain matters in which Mr. Lincoln was interested at the time he was a member of Congress and are self-explanatory. Following are verbatim copies:

"Washington, January 19, 1849.
"Dr. J. B. Herrick.
"Dear Doctor:

"Your letter from Chicago recommending William M. Black for register of the land office at Vandalia, is received. Two others, both good men, have applied for the same office before. I have made no pledge, but if the matter falls into my hands I shall, when the time comes, try to do right in view of all the lights then before me. I do not feel authorized to advise anyone what course to pursue.

"Yours truly,
"A. Lincoln."

"Springfield, June 3, 1849.
"Dr. J. B. Herrick.
"Dear Sir:

"It is now certain that either Mr. Butterfield or I will be commissioner of the general land office. If you are willing to give me the preference, please write me to that effect at Washington, whither I am going. There is not a moment of time to be lost.

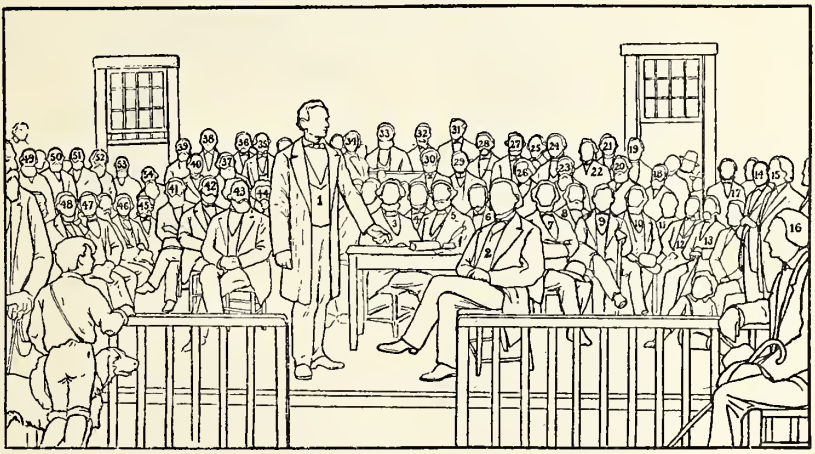
"Yours truly,
"A. Lincoln."

Mr. Lincoln failed to secure the appointment, however, it turned out, and history does not record whether or not Doctor Herrick indorsed his aspirations in that regard.

The Disadvantages of Goodness

Reference is made in the second letter to Mr. Lincoln's impending visit to Wash-

The Lincoln-Thornton debate, Shelbyville, Ill., June 15, 1856



1 Abraham Lincoln
2 Anthony Thornton
3 Dr. York
4 Abraham Middlesworth
5 General W. F. Thornton
6 Prof. C. W. Jerome
7 Michael Gregory
8 Col. Cyrus Hall
9 Charles C. Scovil
10 William Tackett
11 Robert Pugh
12 Charles Thornton
13 Albert Thornton
14 Col. D C. Smith
15 George D. Chafee.
16 Elmus Jaeger
17 William Page
18 Chattin Kelley
19 Hardin Barrett
20 Dr. Enos Penwell
21 Noah Huffer
22 William Ward
23 John A. Tackett
24 Ephriam Cook
25 William Headen
26 John Ward
27 William Cochran
28 Horace L. Martin
29 Samuel H. Webster
30 Joseph Oliver
31 Capt. Park Martin
32 George W..Keeler
33 Burrel Roberts
34 Jasper L. Douthit
35 George Wendling
36 August Pfeiffer
37 George Durkee
38 Dr. R. Bruck
39 Hosea Funk, Sr.
40 Charles Woodward
41 Thomas Headen
42 Charles Lufkin
43 Samuel W. Moulton
44 Morris R. Chew
45 John Harding
46 W. Addison Trower
47 Col. Hiram Scarborough
48 ————
49 John Thornton
50 Samuel French
51 John Root
52 Nathan Curry
53 William Eddy
54 William Storm

KEY TO PORTRAITS IN LINCOLN-THORNTON PAINTING

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ington. It was on this visit that a fellow-traveler on the stage coach took occasion to criticize Lincoln's lack of conviviality. This person, whose name has been lost to history but who was described as a typical Kentuckian of the time, after some conversation with the future President, produced a flask and offered the usual invitation. Mr. Lincoln politely explained that he never drank. The other presently proffered a cigar, which was declined with the acknowledgment by Mr. Lincoln that he never smoked. Finally the Kentuckian produced some chewing tobacco, which likewise failed to meet with favor. The Kentuckian snorted disgustedly.

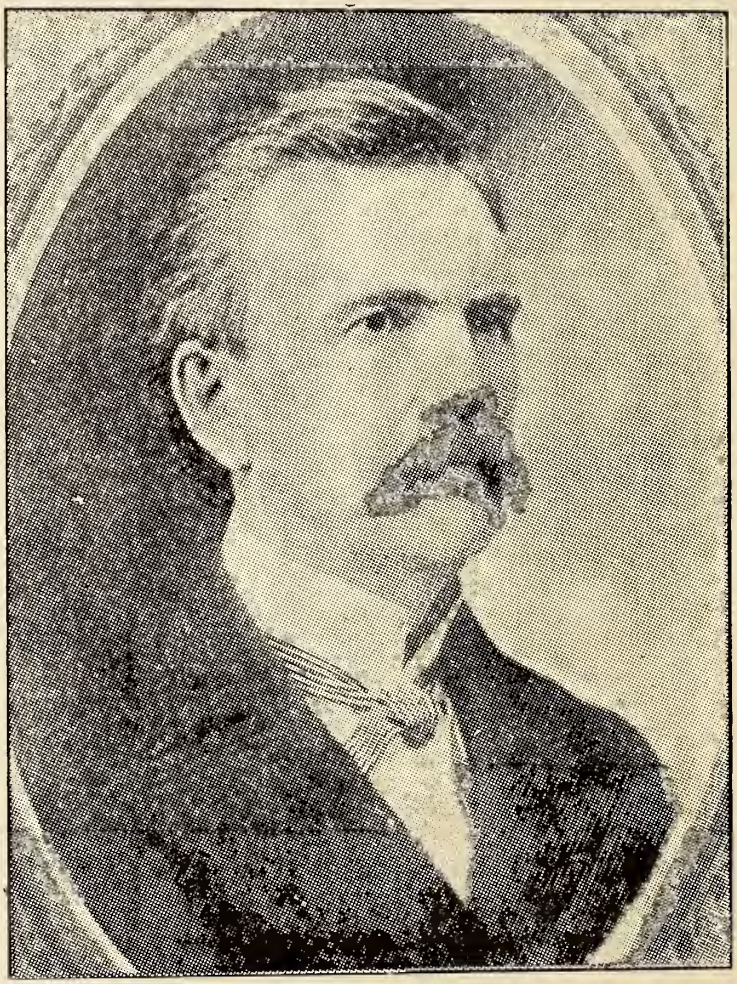
"Well, stranger," he said, "I don't want to offend you, but my experience has taught me that a man who has no vices also has d—d few virtues."

When the Lincoln-Thornton debate was held at Shelbyville, probably nine-tenths of the people there were of pro-slavery opinion, it is said. The population was largely composed of former Kentuckians, Virginians and Tennesseeans who had come North and settled in the early days. But if three-fourths of his audience were against him at the beginning of the discussion, tradition says that at the close of the debate three-fourths of those present were won by the force and clarity of his argument. Thornton was also a Kentuckian and a lawyer, and he and Mr. Lincoln were warm friends all their lives.

George D. Chafee has been local attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad at Shelbyville since 1868. He is now nearing his 84th birthday, having been born July 2, 1839. In recent years he has not been active in the practice of his profession, choosing rather to take his ease in the kindly quietude of life's afternoon. He still keeps his office, climbing daily the old familiar stairs, deep-furrowed with the contact of his footsteps that have traversed them for more than forty years.

Mr. Chafee was born in Rutland County, Vermont, and came to Shelbyville about the time the guns were sounding that fired on Fort Sumter. He was one of the electors who chose President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876. He has represented Shelby County in both branches of the state legislature, as a member of the lower house in 1880 and as state senator in 1904.

September 18, 1922, there was unveiled



George D. Chafee

at Charleston, Coles County, Illinois, a memorial marker commemorating the fourth of the great Lincoln-Douglas debates which took place September 18, 1858. The marker is placed in one corner of the courthouse grounds.

Inn at Shelbyville where Lincoln stayed

The Mattoon *Daily Journal-Gazette* gave a very interesting account of the ceremonies, which were conducted under the auspices of the Mattoon and Charleston chapters of the D. A. R., the Sally Lincoln chapter of Charleston and the Edward Coles chapter of Mattoon. Henry R. Rathbone of Chicago and the Rev. Doctor William E. Barton of Oak Park were the speakers.

Views on Lincoln and Douglas

Mr. Rathbone said of Stephen A. Douglas: "He was a debater of singular skill. His mind was fertile in resources. He was a master of logic. None perceived more quickly than he the strength or the weakness of an argument and none excelled him in the use of sophistry and fallacy. Where he could not elucidate a point to his own advantage, he would fatally becloud it for his opponent. He spoke with extraordinary readiness. His speech was terse, rigorous, pointed—he rarely used a simile. He was destitute of humor. In the field of American politics, his knowledge was comprehensive, minute. He was by nature an orator. He could lead a crowd almost irresistibly to his own conclusions. He was, in short, an able, audacious, almost unconquerable opponent in public discussion.

"Mr. Lincoln was calm and philosophic. He would not argue from a false premise, or deceive others or be himself deceived by a false conclusion. He had given anxious thought to the problems of free government and to the destiny of the republic. He had marked out for himself a path of duty and he walked in it fearlessly. His mental processes were slower and more profound than those of Douglas. He did not seek to say merely the thing which was best for that day's debate, but the thing which would stand the test of time and square itself with eternal truth and justice. He wished nothing to appear white unless it was white. He had an abundant sense of humor and employed it in illustration of his argument—not wholly for the sake of exciting merriment. He had the wonderful aptness of Franklin in this regard. He could teach a great truth with the felicitous brevity of an Aesop fable. His words did not flow in an impetuous torrent as did those of Douglas, but were deliberately chosen, conclusive."

Doctor Barton said in part:

"Lincoln and Douglas both spent the night of September 17, 1858, in Mattoon. Both drove over to Charleston the following morning, each one at the head of a great procession.

"It was on the occasion of the Charleston debate that Mr. Lincoln made his famous reply: 'I do not understand that because I do not want a negro woman for a slave, I must necessarily want her for a wife.' This was in answer to Douglas' declaration that Lincoln believed in social equality of the white and black races."

Seven Lincoln-Douglas Debates

There were seven debates in which Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas participated that year. They were held at the following places in Illinois: At Ottawa, August 21; Freeport, August 27; Jonesboro, September 15; Charleston, September 18; Galesburg, October 7; Quincy, October 13; Alton, October 15.

Two years later, these two tremendous figures, champions on opposing sides of a question which involved the sacrifice of a million lives and the expenditure of a great nation's material and economic reserve strength before its ultimate settlement, were opposing candidates for the highest office in the land.

Mr. Lincoln was elected—and the man who had been his bitterest political rival through those troubled years, but who remained to the end a true and faithful friend, held his successful adversary's hat as they stood under the shadow of the great dome of the national capitol and Mr. Lincoln stood forward to deliver his inaugural address.

Abraham Lincoln's Views on Americanism

Little-Known Address Made at Springfield Points Our Sole Danger as Being Within

The following is from an address which Abraham Lincoln, then only 28 years old, delivered in 1837 before the Young Men's Lyceum at Springfield, Ill. The very fact that it is among the least known of Lincoln's public utterances has prompted the editors to select it for publication upon this anniversary occasion.

IN the great journal of things happening under the sun, we, the American people, find our account running the date of the nineteenth century of the Christian era. We find ourselves in the peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the earth as regards extent of territory, fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate. We find ourselves under the government of a system of political institutions conducing more essentially to the ends of civil and religious liberty than any of which the history of former times tells us.

We, when mounting the stage of existence, found ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement or establishment of them; they are a legacy, bequeathed to us by a once hardy, brave and patriotic, but now lamented and departed, race of our ancestors.

Theirs was the task (and nobly they performed it) to possess themselves, and through themselves us, of this goodly land, and to uprear upon its hills and its valleys a political edifice of liberty and equal rights; 'tis ours only to transmit these—the former unprofaned by the foot of an invader, the latter undecayed by the lapse of time and untorn by usurpation—to the latest generation that fate shall permit the world to know. This task gratitude to our fathers, justice to ourselves, duty to posterity and love for our species in general, all imperatively require us faithfully to perform.

How, then, shall we perform it? At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant to step the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest, with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years.

At what point is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reaches us it must spring up amongst us; it cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men we must live through all time, or die by suicide. * * *

I know the American people are much attached to their government; I know they would suffer much for its sake; I know they would endure evils long and patiently before they would ever think of exchanging it for another—yet, notwithstanding all this, if the laws be continually disregarded and despised, if their rights to be secure in their persons and property are held by no better tenure than the caprice of a mob, the alienation of their affections from the government is the natural consequence, and to that sooner or later it must come.

Here, then, is one point from which danger must be expected. The question recurs, "How shall we fortify against it?"

The answer is simple. Let every American, every lover of liberty, every wellwisher to his posterity swear by the blood of the Revolution never to violate in the least particular the laws of the country, and never to tolerate their violation by others. As the patriots of '76 did to the support of the Declaration of Independence, and so to the support of the Constitution and laws, let every American pledge his life, his property and his sacred honor—let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty.

Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries and in colleges; let it be written in primers, in spelling books and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay of all sexes and tongues and colors sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars.

They [the Revolutionary fathers] were pillars of the temple of liberty; and now that they have crumbled away that temple must fall unless we, their descendants,

supply their places with other pillars, hewn from the solid quarry of sober reason. Passion has helped us, but can do so no more. It will in future be our enemy. Reason—cold, calculating, unimpassioned reason—must furnish all the materials for our future support and defense. Let those materials be molded into general intelligence, sound morality, and, in particular, a reverence for the Constitution and laws; and that we improved to the last, that we revered his name to the last, that we remained free to the last, that during his long sleep we permitted no hostile foot to pass over or desecrate his resting place, shall be that which, to learn, the last trumpet shall awaken our Washington.

Upon this let the proud fabric of freedom rest, as the rock of its basis; and, as truly as it has been said of the only greater institution, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

What Lincoln Meant to One Immigrant

By J. H. LORD,

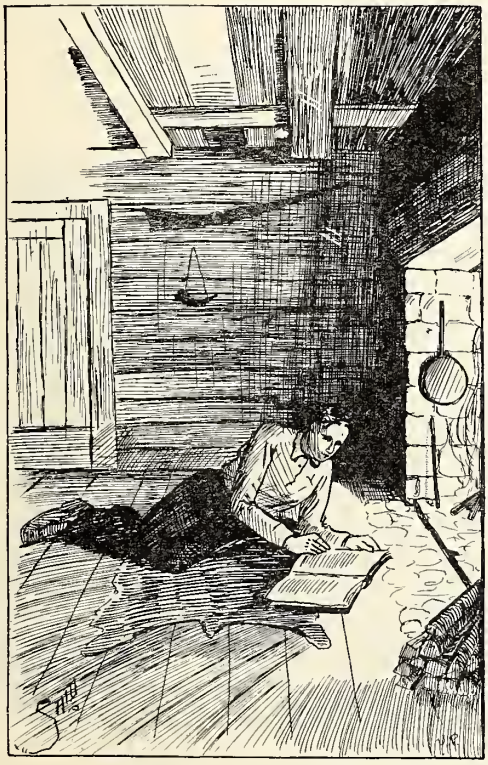
District Passenger Agent, Springfield, Ill.

About ten years ago a rough-appearing man came to my office to seek advice about his wife and five children whom he desired to bring to this city from their homes in Wales. He had not yet reached middle age. The children were all young. He had not seen them for a year, because he had only funds enough to pay his way to Illinois. He was working in one of the mines near this city and had now saved enough money for his family's passage. I undertook to arrange everything for their transportation from Wales to Springfield. In his anxiety, he frequently came to my office. Sometimes it would be necessary for him to wait, and I noticed he would take from his pocket a soiled little book in which he soon became absorbed.

One day I asked him what the book was. It was a life of Lincoln. And then he told me this story.

"One Christmas I was looking for small gifts, and I went into a shop in Wales where there were books for sale. I saw the word 'Lincoln' on the cover of this book, and I asked the shopkeeper whether it was about the American Lincoln. He told me it was, and I bought it for 2 shillings. I read it through before I went to bed that night, and when I finished it I said I would not rest until I reached Springfield, Ill.

"I carried the book with me to work and



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down in the pits. At the noon hour, with only the flickering light of my lamp, I read this book over and over. It has never been away from me. When I had saved enough I came to this country, and I did not stop until I reached Springfield. Within an hour after I arrived here, I was at Lincoln's tomb. I knelt in the open and thanked God that I was in America. I have now saved enough to bring my family, and this is to be our home, and our children will grow up to know Lincoln and to guide their footsteps after his."

The family reached New York in safety. Illinois Central representatives took charge of them, and they came through to Springfield with scarcely an incident. The husband and father was at the station, and I think the meeting was the most affecting sight I have ever witnessed at a station.

This man worked for several years in the mines about Springfield and then went to Missoula, Mont., to become a storekeeper for a mining company.

I have no doubt the experience of this man is not at all unusual among the better class and the more intelligent of the European aliens who seek refuge in this country.

Travelers "Treated" at Centreville, Miss.

By NORA P. RING, Stenographer,
Superintendent's Office, Vicksburg, Miss.

Yazoo & Mississippi Valley trains Nos. 30 and 31 stop for dinner and No. 12 for supper at Centreville, Miss. The hotel there is conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peck, who have become famous with the traveling public for the excellent cuisine of their establishment. Anyone who has ever eaten one of their meals, served in home style, always remembers it with pleasure.

When the passenger trains pulled into Centreville on Christmas day and made the usual stop for dinner, one of the surprises of their lives awaited the passengers, who through necessity or otherwise were forced to absent themselves from home and fireside on that happy day.

The diners, upon entering the hotel, which is a short distance from the station, found the gracious host and his wife ready to receive them. They were ushered into the dining-room, where the following menu was spread for their delectation: Turkey with oysters, chicken, cranberry sauce, creamed potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce, salads, hot biscuits, fruit cakes, layer cakes and ice cream. And all this served in home fashion—verily a real Christmas feast.

The guests were invited to partake of this delightful repast, and after they did justice to it the surprise was sprung. The meal was served free of charge. It was on the house! It was Mr. and Mrs. Peck's Christmas offering to the patrons of the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley.

Not content with this unique action, the hosts had provided a sextet of negro sing-

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peck and their dining room, Centreville, Miss.

Illinois Central System Will Expend $45,500,000 in 1923 in Order to Serve Its Patrons More Efficiently

The Illinois Central System plans to expend $45,500,000 in 1923 on improving and extending its facilities—an expenditure that will be made in the interest of improved service to its patrons. The expansion program consists of new equipment that will cost $18,500,000, which is now being ordered, and the construction of roadway improvements that will cost $27,000,000, work on which will be begun immediately.

The new equipment purchased will include fifty locomotives, 4,000 open-top cars, 1,500 box cars, 500 automobile cars, fifty all-steel passenger and baggage cars, five dining cars and 125 caboose cars.

The construction of roadway improvements includes additional main tracks, grade reductions, improvements to and extension of yards, locomotive and car shops, freight and passenger terminals, new shop machinery and tools and extension of signal facilities.

Heavy losses result from inadequate transportation. The Illinois Central System, as its 1923 program indicates, is earnestly endeavoring to place itself in position to serve its patrons more adequately.

Since September 1, 1920, the Illinois Central System has expended $23,500,000 on improvements and enlargements to its roadway facilities and $49,000,000 on new equipment. Including the expenditures planned for 1923, this means that in a little more than three years the Illinois Central System will have expended $118,000,000 for improving and enlarging its roadway facilities and for new equipment.

With railway conditions as they have been for several years past, such expenditures as the Illinois Central System has been and is making require an abiding faith on the part of the management in the fairness of the American public. The Illinois Central System has that faith. It believes that the public, when in possession of the true facts, will control railway regulatory policies in such a way that the railroads will be enabled to earn a fair, compensatory return upon the value of their properties. If it were not for that faith, the management could not justify these extensive expenditures.

Constructive criticism and suggestions are invited.

C. H. MARKHAM,
President, Illinois Central System

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